

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4449

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 5066

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ASCH GR

SUBJECT: PIERCE COLLEGE

REF: STATE 125384

ANSWERS TO REFTEL QUESTIONS FOLLOW:

1. DERE-PIERCE GRANTS AMERICAN COLLEGE DEGREES WHICH HAVE NO LEGAL VALIDITY WITH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCE IN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS, NO US BACHELOR DEGREE ARE CURRENTLY RECOGNIZED IN GREECE.

2. EMBASSY INFORMED THAT ON MAY 18 THREE DEPUTIES REPRESENTING NEW DEMOCRACY, UNION OF DEMOCRATIC CENTER AND PASOK DIRECTED QUESTIONS TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION CONCERNING STATUS AND PROBLEMS OF PIERCE. DEPUTIES AWAITING REPLIES PRIOR TO PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION.

3. DURING PERIOD OF TEACHERS STRIKE (APRIL 14 - MAY 19) AND STUDENTS STRIKE (APR 15-MAY 21), WHICH COINCIDED WITH APR 17-MAY 3 PIERCE SPRING RECESS, STORIES APPEARED MAY 7 IN "ELEFTHERTOTYPIA" (LEFT OPPOSITION, ANTI AMERICAN), MAY 9 IN "AVGHI" (COMMUNIST), AND MAY 12 IN "KATHIMERINI" (PRO GOVT). ON MAY 22, SAME THREE PAPERS REPORTED PASOK DEPUTY'S QUESTIONS ON PIERCE SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT. ALL CITED STORIES MENTION STRIKE AND GIVE FOLLOWING REASONS: A) FACULTY AND STUDENTS HAVE NO VOICE IN DECISIONS GOVERNING SCHOOL; B) TEACHERS WORK ON BASIS OF PROVISIONAL CONTRACTS WITH NO JOB SECURITY; C) TUITION COSTS CONTINUE TO ESCALATE DESPITE PROFITS OF SCHOOL AND AID SUBSIDIES; D) STUDENTS

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DO NOT ENJOY GOOD STUDY CONDITIONS.

4. ON MAY22, ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY NEWS RAN TWO COLUMN STORY
SUMMARIZING TESTIMONY ALLEGED TAKEN FROM AID/ASHA DIRECTOR
COSTANTINO BEFORE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MAY 13.
KUBISCH

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